

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
SENIOR HEALTH, SECURITY, AND RETIREMENT
Rep. Barb Vander Veen, Chair

TESTIMONY from RoANNE CHANEY

As part of the Deficit Reduction Act signed earlier this year the Bush Administration released a document called the *Roadmap for Medicaid Reform: New Options to Support Individuals with Long-Term Care Needs*. The three primary themes of this document are:

- Expand coverage for individuals [of all ages] with disabilities
- Increase access to community supports
- Promote personal responsibility, independence, and choice.

I want to quote some other statements and themes from the document:

- “Reflects a growing consensus on transforming ...reforming state {Medicaid} programs from being institutionally-based and provider-driven to person-centered and consumer-controlled.”
- “Quality services are more likely to be delivered where there is true access and choice.”

The consensus associated with these themes was certainly echoed in the process and final report of Michigan's Medicaid Long-Term Care Task Force which I had the privilege to chair. Person-centered planning, choice from an array of services and a focus on quality are agreed upon values for Michigan's Medicaid Long-Term Care system. Another consensus recommendation issued by the Task Force, after much research, debate, and discussion, is that Michigan needs and must have a Single Point of Entry system as a vehicle and critical first step to assuring that people with long-term care and support needs are indeed provided choice, person-centered planning, and a quality system.

We have known for many years, during the Engler and Granholm administrations, that Michigan needs a Single Point of Entry system to ensure choice in obtaining the right long-term care and support, at the right time. The system is not going to cost 60 million new dollars. Rather, it will cost the state less than 2% of its total long-term care dollars. Many other states have demonstrated a much greater Return on Investment for this less than 2%.

It is long past time to implement this system on a statewide basis. Please **do the right thing** for persons needing long-term care and supports. **Do the right thing** for the State of Michigan. **PASS House Bill 5389 to establish a statewide Single Point of Entry System for long-term care.**

Thank you.